

Amendments to the Specification

Page 4, please replace paragraph [0010] with the following rewritten paragraph [0010]:

[0010]

The gel-forming material using for the oral sustained-release tablets in the present invention is a material that swells as it absorbs a solvent, so that the colloid particles in the material are ~~cross-linked~~ cross-linked between polymers ~~another~~ to form a three-dimensional network structure, resulting in a less-fluid gel-like material. When used in pharmaceutical preparations, the material serves mainly as a binder, thickener viscosity increasing-agent and sustained-release agent. Examples of the gel-forming material include gum Arabic, agar, polyvinylpyrrolidone, sodium alginate, alginic acid propyleneglycol ester, carboxyvinyl polymer, carboxymethylcellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, guar gum, gelatin, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, polyvinylalcohol, methylcellulose, and hydroxyethylmethylcellulose. Of these, hydroxypropylcellulose (referred to as HPMC, hereinafter) is particularly preferred and provides one feature of the present invention.